



"[*The Runner Stumbles*] is a smacking good play. Or rather, three smacking good plays: a courtroom drama, a whodunit, and a treatise on the acceptance and rejection of faith and why God has put us here... Credit Peter Zinn's lucid, subtle direction, and some splendid performances. A play this good has no business being forgotten, and Retro Productions does more than honorably by it." - Marc Miller, [Back Stage East](#) - CRITIC'S PICK!

"Whenever I hear that Retro Productions is doing a show, I immediately make a reservation. I love this ambitious company that brings back forgotten plays. This month's treat was *The Runner Stumbles*, Milan Stitt's 1976 quasi-hit about a nun and a priest, and how the raging tide they held inside could hold no more... Peter Zinn's production was surprising, refreshing and winning."- Peter Filichia, [Filichia on Friday](#)

"[This] production is definitely worth seeing. The acting is superb and the twist is surprising." - Carissa Cordes, [New York Theatre Review](#)

January 9, 2012

Dear friends of Retro Productions;

Thank you to all of you who came out for our production of THE RUNNER STUMBLES by Milan Stitt. Many of you have told me that it was your favorite production, and Retro's best yet!

You are not alone in thinking it was one of our best. A producer who attended a performance loved it and has come on board to co-produce a move to off-Broadway! And with the help of other key supporters, one anonymous donation of \$5,000, and an anonymous offer to match additional raised funds up to \$3,000, we have already raised nearly half of our budget! But, in order to support this move to off-Broadway, Retro needs to raise additional funds to help pay the actors' union wages and support additional marketing. Excerpts of some of our tremendous reviews (see above) will be featured in our marketing efforts.

In order to support this exciting development, we have set our "Retro Moves to Off-Broadway" fundraising goal at \$40,000 (\$22K has been raised). Donors can pledge to make tax-exempt donations, and every penny counts, so even if you can only donate \$10, we would love to hear from you. Think of it this way: \$1,800 will sponsor the down payment on the performance royalties, \$1,535 will sponsor one actor's AEA contract (there are a total of nine!), \$300 will sponsor our Box Office Treasurer's salary, \$250 will sponsor a run of programs, \$25 will sponsor a weeks worth of consumable properties (remember all that bread dough, eggnog, apples and such? Yeah, I do too). A detailed budget is available upon request.

At this time we are taking pledges through February 15<sup>th</sup> – so if you would like to pledge a donation, simply email [retroprods@gmail.com](mailto:retroprods@gmail.com) with the subject line "pledge" and let us know how much you'd be willing to donate. Your donation will not be due until we find we have raised the minimum amount to proceed (although if you would like to go ahead and commit to your donation by sending it in we do promise it will be used in future theatrical endeavors). In order to make your tax deductible donation to Retro Productions, information and instructions can be found at <http://www.retroproductions.org/donating.htm>. Also look for our other fundraising campaigns on Facebook and via our website (and if you haven't liked us on Facebook yet, what's taking you so long?).

To our extra special donors we would like to offer the following special donor packages:

**\$5,000 or more gets you in the Producers Ring:** your name on the marquis poster, six tickets to opening night,

a special "Retro" goody bag, a signed poster from the entire cast, and your name listed in the playbill and on the lobby display. (\$4,500 of this donation is tax-deductible.)

**\$2,000 or more gets you in the Backstage Ring:** four tickets to opening night, a special "Retro" goody bag, a signed poster from the entire cast, and your name listed in the playbill and on the lobby display. (\$1,700 of this donation is tax-deductible.)

**\$500 or more gets you in the Follow Spot Ring:** two tickets to opening night, a special "Retro" goody bag, and your name listed in the playbill and on the lobby display. (\$350 of this donation is tax-deductible.)

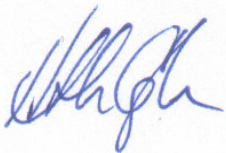
Your contribution to this enterprise is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law, as Retro Productions is sponsored by The Field\*. Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Credit card: Visit <https://www.thefield.org/ContributionToSA.aspx?> (Artist Group/Company Name is Retro Productions)
- Write a check made out to "The Field" with "Heather Cunningham/Retro Productions" in the memo field and mail it to Heather Cunningham, 41-16 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #2G – Sunnyside, NY 11104.
- Or, if a tax deduction is not necessary, you can make your check out directly to "Heather Cunningham" with "Retro Productions" in the memo line and mail it to Heather Cunningham, 41-16 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #2G – Sunnyside, NY 11104. All monies donated in this manner are put solely to use by Retro Productions.

Please remember when making your contribution that many companies and organizations you are involved with may have matching gift programs, all you have to do is ask them.

This is a great opportunity that we hate to pass up. Some of you may recall that in the past we had similar offers to move our shows HOLY DAYS and STILL LIFE. Unfortunately we were unable to raise the necessary funds either of those times. We hope this time to make it happen. This would be a huge leap in raising awareness about Retro Productions throughout the city. It would allow us to run the show longer and be reviewed by bigger news outlets. All of which helps us sell tickets further down the line not just for an extension of THE RUNNER STUMBLES, but for future Retro Productions as well.

Best,



Heather Cunningham  
Producing Artistic Director  
Retro Productions  
[retroprods@gmail.com](mailto:retroprods@gmail.com)

The Field is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization serving the New York City performing arts community. Contributions made to The Field and earmarked for Heather Cunningham/Retro Productions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information about The Field contact: The Field, 161 6th Avenue, New York NY 10013, (212) 691-6969, fax: (212) 255-2053, [www.thefield.org](http://www.thefield.org). A copy of The Field's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from The Field or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271



# The Runner Stumbles

by Milan Stiff



Photos by K. Vaughan from the November, 2011 production.  
For credits and additional information go to [www.retroproductions.org](http://www.retroproductions.org).